IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A crystalline form of azithromycin ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein said form is substantially pure form F.

9. (Original) A crystalline form according to claim 8 wherein said form is characterized as containing 2-5% water and 1-5% ethanol by weight in a powder sample.

10. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said form is further characterized as having a 13C solid state NMR spectrum comprising a plurality of peaks with chemical shifts of about 179.5 ppm, 178.6 ppm, 58.0 ppm, 17.2 ppm, 10.1 ppm 9.8 ppm, 9.3 ppm, 7.9 ppm and 6.6 ppm.

11. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises more than 80% by weight of form F azithromycin.

12. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 81% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

13. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 82% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

14. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 83% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

15. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 84% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

16. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 85% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

17. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 86% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

18. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 87% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

19. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 88% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

20. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 89% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

21. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 90% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

22. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 91% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

23. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 92% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

24. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 93% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

25. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 94% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

26. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 95% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

27. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 96% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

28. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 97% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

29. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 98% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

30. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 8 wherein said azithromycin comprises 99% or more by weight of form F azithromycin.

31. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a crystalline form of azithromycin as in claim 8 or in one of claims 11-30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient

32. - 96. (Canceled)

97. (Original) A method of preparing the crystalline form of claim 8 comprising the steps of dissolving azithromycin in ethanol to form an ethanol solution, cooling the ethanol solution to below 20°C, precipitating azithromycin crystals and isolating the crystals.

98. (Original) A method according to claim 97 wherein the ethanol solution is cooled to 15°C or below.

99. (Original) A method according to claim 97 wherein the ethanol solution is cooled to 10°C or below.

100. (Original) A method according to claim 97 wherein the ethanol solution is cooled to 5°C or below.

101. (Original) A method as in one of claims 97-100 further comprising the step of adding water to the ethanol solution after the ethanol solution has been cooled.

102. (Original) A method according to claim 101 further comprising the step of cooling the water prior to adding the water to the ethanol solution.

103. (Original) A method according to claim 102 wherein the water is cooled to below 20°C.

104. (Original) A method according to claim 102 wherein the water is cooled to 15°C or below.

105. (Original) A method according to claim 102 wherein the water is cooled to 10°C or below.

106. (Original) A method according to claim 102 wherein the water is cooled to 5°C or below.

107. (Original) A method according to one of claims 97 to 100 further comprising the step of seeding the cooled ethanol solution with crystals of form F azithromycin.

108. - 122. (Canceled)

123. (Currently amended) A method of treating a bacterial infection or a protozoa infection in a mammal, fish, or bird which comprises administering to said mammal, fish or bird a therapeutically effective amount of substantially pure form F crystalline azithromycin ~~according to claim 1 or an azithromycin mixture according to claim 86~~.